

**Pending Claims**

1-27. (Previously Cancelled).

28. (Presently Amended) A pesticidal composition, comprising:

a first component selected from the group consisting of a phosphonic acid chelating agent, a metal complex of a phosphonic acid chelating agent, a phosphonic acid chelating agent combined with a metal salt, and mixtures thereof; and

a second component comprising a ~~earrier material~~ food source effective as a bait edible to pests,

wherein the pesticidal composition is effective to kill pests upon ingestion.

29. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 28, wherein the phosphonic acid chelating agent is selected from the group consisting of phosphonic acid, its salts, and combinations thereof.

30. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 29, wherein the phosphonic acid salt comprises a salt selected from the group consisting of a sodium salt, a potassium salt, a calcium salt, a zinc salt, an ammonium salt, an amine salt, an amide salt, and combinations thereof.

31. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 28, wherein the phosphonic acid chelating agent is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyethyl-diphosphonic acid (HEDP), aminotri(methylenephosphonic acid) (ATMP), salts of HEDP, salts of ATMP, and combinations thereof.

32. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 28, wherein the metal complex of the phosphonic acid chelating agent comprises a metal that is selected from the group consisting of Group IIa elements, transition metals, and combinations thereof.

33. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 28, wherein the metal complex of the phosphonic acid chelating agent comprises a metal that is selected from the group

consisting of aluminum, copper, iron, manganese, nickel, zinc, ferric iron, ferrous iron, and combinations thereof.

34. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 28, wherein the metal complex of the phosphonic acid chelating agent comprises the phosphonic acid chelating agent combined with metal ions in the form of a metal salt.

35. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 34, wherein the metal salt comprises a salt selected from the group consisting of a chloride salt, a sulfate salt, a nitrate salt, a citrate salt, a phosphate salt, a carbonate salt, an acetate salt, a hydroxide salt, a chelate salt, a sulfide salt, a sulfite salt, a succinate salt, a gluconate salt, a lactate salt, a formate salt, a nitrite salt, a salicylate salt, a carboxylic acid salt, and combinations thereof.

36. (Presently amended) The composition of claim 28, wherein the food source comprises a carrier material is selected from the group consisting of wheat flour, wheat cereal, bran, molasses, vinegar, agar, gelatine, pet food, wheat, soy products, oats, corn, corn cob, vegetable oils, citrus mash, rice, fruits, fish by-products, sugars, coated vegetable seeds, coated cereal, seeds, dairy products, whey powder, casein, albumen, blood meal, bone meal, yeast, fats, beer products, and combinations thereof.

37. (Presently Amended) The composition of claim 28, wherein the food source comprises a carrier material ~~comprises~~ selected from the group consisting of water, alcohols, vinegar, plant-derived oils, mineral oils, glycerol, glycols, and combinations thereof.

38. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 28, wherein the first component is present in the composition at a concentration in the range of about 0.25% to 40%.

39. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 28, wherein the first component is present in the composition at a concentration in the range of about 0.5% to 30%.

40. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 28, further comprising a pH-adjusting additive.

41. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 40, wherein the pH-adjusting additive is selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, potassium carbonate, hydrochloric acid, potassium hydroxide, ascorbic acid, tartaric acid, citric acid, and combinations thereof.

42. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 40, wherein the pH-adjusting additive is present in the composition at a concentration in the range of about 0.05 to 5.0% by weight.

43. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 28, further comprising at least one additive selected from the group consisting of attractants, phagostimulants, cellulose complexes, sand, clay, silica, polyacrylic acid polymers, polyacrylimide acid polymers, diatomaceous earth, alginate, wax, and combinations thereof.

44. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 28, wherein the composition is a solid bait.